

Description

Therapeutic Mattress

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0001] FIELD OF INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates to mattresses, and more particularly to therapeutic mattresses for reducing pressure ulcers during surgery.

[0003] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The incidence of pressure ulcer formation on surgical units and post-operative facilities varies between 7 to 66%. Factors that contribute to pressure ulcer formation for hospitalized patients are: body habits, co-morbid disease, age, type of surgery and inter-operative duration. The incidence of peri-operative pressure ulcers can be decreased by reducing operative time or intensity of pressure and shear force on the human body during surgery. One method of accomplishing the latter is to provide a pressure-relief surface to reduce the interface pressure via a combination mattress that relieves interface pressure and provides dynamic pressure reduction.

[0005] Accordingly, what is needed in the art is a fluid-based sonic therapeutic mattress suitable for surgical use.

[0006] It is, therefore, to the effective resolution of the aforementioned

problems and shortcomings of the prior art that the present invention is directed.

[0007] However, in view of the prior art in at the time the present invention was made, it was not obvious to those of ordinary skill in the pertinent art how the identified needs could be fulfilled.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0008] The present invention includes a mattress having a fluid-based center portion encapsulated by a stabilizing visco-elastic polyurethane covering adapted to prevent lateral or longitudinal movement while a patient is disposed thereon. One or more sonic speakers disposed below or coincident to the fluid-based center generate fluid sound waves. Responsive to the sound waves, the fluid oscillates. The mechanical oscillation of the fluid is translated to the visco-elastic polyurethane covering upon which the patient is disposed. The therapeutic effects of the ultrasound oscillations speed the rate of healing and enhance the quality of tissue repair. Furthermore, the stabilizing effects of the covering make the mattress stationary for surgical operations.

[0009] Accordingly, a preferred embodiment of the present invention is a therapeutic mattress including a stabilizing visco-elastic polyurethane outer shell about 4-inches thick having a viscosity sufficiently resilient for the performance of surgical procedures, a visco-elastic polyurethane inner shell about 2.5-inches thick disposed within the outer shell, a waterproof circumferential surface enclosing the outer shell, a fluid-based inner cavity encapsulated by the inner shell, the fluid-based

inner cavity is filled with compressible shock absorbing fluid, a plurality of speakers emitting low frequency resonance generating fluid sound waves in sonic communication with the fluid-based inner cavity, the speakers are in parallel arrangement throughout the bottom surface of the inner mattress and an external control adapted to adjust the frequency emitted through the speakers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. 1 is a partially sectional, isometric exploded view of the invention.

[0011] FIG. 2 is a partially sectional, isometric view of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] Figure 1 shows an exploded view of the mattress 10 wherein outer shell 20 is a 4-inch thick visco-elastic polyurethane material 80 (Fig. 2). An inner cavity 30 is defined within the outer shell 20. The mattress is the standard operating room mattress length and width with a thin fluid/waterproof circumferential surface. The inner shell is 2.5-inch thick mattress 40 composed of polyurethane material filled with non-compressible shock absorbing fluid 90. The inner mattress core contains manifolds 60 of miniature sonic speakers 50 placed in various locations in parallel throughout bottom surface of the mattress 40. These sonic speakers 50 serve to create a fluid sound wave. Hence fluid 90 within the inner mattress 40 (Fig. 2) is made to oscillate and form "fluid sound waves" via sonic energy. These sonic speakers 50 emit a low frequency resonance to create sound propagation in fluid 90. The frequency can be adjusted from an external dial 100 to increase

the amplitude of the fluid sound wave. However, the frequency will not be beyond the limit of low frequency band. This will help to ensure that waves are propagated further and maintain integrity. Power supply 70 provides low voltage current and electrical signals to the speakers 50.

[0013] The effects of sound on the body in this fashion, especially area of increase interface pressure, is to temporarily relieve pressure while promoting blood flow. Hence combating some of the problems faced during prolonged immobilization during surgery. The ultimate effect is to decrease interface pressure and shear force by infinitesimal fluid sonic stimulation of the skin, blood medium/small vessels and capillaries and muscle tissues via: (1) oscillating "fluid sound wave" and (2) pressure reduction afforded by the visco-elastic material. Pressure relief and reduction is achieved by the continuous shifting and releasing of pressure points as well as enhancing blood flow by similar mechanism as massage therapy. All this can be accomplished with the application of a sonic wave fluid propagation technology.

[0014] The mattress is removable with industrial strength Velcro straps that wrap fully around underneath the table; and four corner pouches that slip onto each o.r. table corner for a tight and secure fit.

[0015] It will be seen that the objects set forth above, and those made apparent from the foregoing description, are efficiently attained and since certain changes may be made in the above construction without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matters contained in the foregoing description or shown in the accompanying

drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

[0016] It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween. Now that the invention has been described,